

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-24 are in the application, with claims 21-24 being newly added.

Claims 1-8, 10-13 and 16-20 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by JP 10-194856. Claims 14 and 15 were rejected under USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over JP 10-194856 in view of Yamaguchi (US Patent No. 6,723,382). Claim 9 was rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over JP-194856 in view of Grueber et al. (US Patent No. 6,838,162).

In response thereto the independent claim 1 has been amended to specify that:

“...the fiber fabric comprises:

main constitutional fibers; and

auxiliary fibers having characteristics that compensate for changed characteristics of the main constitutional fibers, when the main constitutional fibers are exposed to a high temperature atmosphere, wherein the main constitutional fibers and auxiliary fibers **are stranded together...**”(claim1)

Claim 12 was similarly amended to specify the step of stranding together the main constitutional fibers and auxiliary fibers and that the auxiliary fiber have characteristics to compensate for changed characteristics of the main constitutional fibers when exposed to a high temperature atmosphere.

Basis for the amendments appears at Figure 1 of the present application which illustrates the stranding of the fibers of the fiber fabric, with the direct juxtaposition of fibers 21 and 22 into fiber fabric 2. In addition, original claims 17 and 18 specify the main constitutional fibers as auxiliary fibers forming a strand. In contrast, the Japanese 10-194856 reference, in all the figures thereof, and in the exemplified Figure 4 shows full separation between low elasticity fibers 4 and high elasticity fibers 3, with both types of fibers being separately adhered to the matrix with a spacing therebetween` in an alternating matrix configuration. The Japanese reference discloses the fiber fabric being formed in a reticular pattern with two types of fiber bundles but not with the fiber bundles being “stranded” together as required in the present claims 1 and 12. The Japanese reference does not disclose all the features of the presently claimed invention and does not anticipate the present invention. In addition, there is no suggestion in the Japanese reference of providing the fibers in a stranded configuration and one skilled in the art would not have modified the fiber fabric of the Japanese reference to that of the presently

claimed invention especially since the reference itself discloses that the structure with separated low and high elastic fibers having increased crack resistance.

The Examiner made the following statement with respect to the JP 10-194856 reference:

“...The Japanese reference discloses that the fibers are combined into a textile, which indicates that the fibers are in the form of a thread or strand as per instant claims 17-18 and 20...”

Such reference to a textile is not found in the paragraph abstract of the reference. In addition, even were it to be in the reference, combined fibers would clearly encompass fibers of the same characteristics as shown in the figures and not a full combination or stranding of fibers with different characteristics with high temperature characteristic compensation as in the present claims.

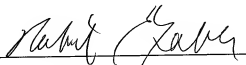
Claims 1 and 12 are neither anticipated nor rendered obvious by the cited Japanese reference 10-194856 and are patentable. Dependent claims 2-11 and 13-20 are similarly patentable for at least the reasons given with respect to claims 1 and 12 upon which they are dependent.

New claims 21-24 further specify the strands and composition of formation in the method (claim 21) and composite material (claims 22-24).

In view of the above amendments, and discussion it is submitted that all of the claims are in condition for allowance and such favorable action is respectfully solicited.

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TRADEMARK OFFICE EFS FILING
SYSTEM ON JULY 3, 2008.**

Respectfully submitted,


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